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Obituary: J. D. Rae Vernon 1929–2005

Rae Vernon, who made many contributions to field ornithology in Morocco, died on 8 March 2005. He was born in South Wales in 1929 and read Zoology at the University of Wales, Cardiff. Until his retirement in 1989, he was an Advisory Entomologist with the UK Ministry of Agriculture's advisory service with a special interest in fruit pests. A great part of his life was dedicated to birds and he travelled widely in both

the Old and New Worlds, especially in North Africa. He first visited Morocco in 1965 and fell in love with its people and the extensive range of habitats, from the High Atlas to the coastal plains, with their diversity of birds and other fauna. In 1966 he led one of the first organised bird tours of Morocco. He subsequently made several personal trips there and gained a great knowledge of its avifauna. He was country cor-

respondent for Morocco for *The Birds of the Western Palearctic* and *BWP Concise*. In addition to papers published in French or English journals, he was a co-author of *The Birds of Morocco* (BOU Checklist No. 20), published in 2003, and was a key member of the Moroccan Rare Birds Committee.

Michel Thévenot and Patrick Bergier



ANNOUNCEMENT

James F. Clements 1927–2005

On 9 June, James F. Clements, author of the widely used *Birds of the World—A Check List*, died in hospital in California from complications associated with acute myeloid leukaemia. He was born in New York on 31 October 1927, joined the Merchant Marine at age 15, and

later shifted to the navy. He moved to California in 1952 where he eventually became a partner in a successful printing firm. He received his PhD in 1975 and his thesis became the first edition of his famous *Check List* which has since sold five editions. After retiring in 1988 he founded Ibis Publishing Company and produced a number

of books, including *A Field Guide to the Birds of Peru*. He was past president of many civic organisations including the San Diego Museum of Natural History and the Explorer's Clubs of Los Angeles and San Diego. The recently described Iquitos Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila clementsii* is named in his honour.

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